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EXAMINER	
MCLEAN, NEIL R	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/763,700	FELIX ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Neil R. McLean	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *16 June 2008*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-27* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-27* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/16/2008 has been entered.

Status of Claims

2. Claims 1-27 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-3, 14-16, and 26 have been amended.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, see Page 11, lines 23-25, and Page 13, lines 22-25 filed 6/16/2008, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-27 under Nishikawa in view of Barry have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Freedman (US 4,839,829).

Regarding Applicant's Argument:

Nishikawa does not disclose expressly performing a merger performance analysis to determine that the economy of joining the plurality of print jobs exceeds the job joining overhead; and

wherein the joined print job is rendered at a single imaging device.

Examiner's Response:

Nishikawa does not disclose expressly performing a merger performance analysis to determine that the economy of joining the plurality of print jobs exceeds the job joining overhead; and

wherein the joined print job is rendered at a single imaging device.

Freedman discloses performing a merger performance analysis to determine that the economy of joining the plurality of print jobs exceeds the job joining overhead; and

wherein the joined print job is rendered at a single imaging device.

(Freedman discloses an automated control system for the printing of a work using a variety of conventional and emerging graphic arts processes and techniques. The system employs a computer network which is programmed so that a printing requester or user can interface, through the computer network, with the printing facility for the printing or publishing of a work or job. More specifically, the system interacts with the user for collecting and storing information or parameters regarding the user's needs (i.e., cost requirements, photos, pictures, graphics, deadlines, number of documents to be printed, colors used, kinds of paper, typeface to be used, etc). The system then compares the information from the user with stored information relating to the printed work design and capabilities of various printing facilities (i.e., types of printing equipment available, for example, offset presses, paper cutters and/or binding equipment, operating costs, time, process requirements, etc.). The system also evaluates which printing facility and/or particular type of printing equipment is most compatible with the user's specific printing needs as disclosed in Column 1, lines 10-31).

Nishikawa & Freedman are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor of image processing; e.g., both references disclose printing control methods.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include a means for performance analysis that takes into account economic considerations prior to assigning a print job.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would be to eliminate many of the impediments incurred in the routine business practices of the printing industry. Freedman discloses that the overall printing process is only as efficient as its weakest link—the client/printing company interface regarding the printing requirements, costs, scheduling, etc. Freedman further discloses enormous amounts of information have to be exchanged between a prospective customer and a printing facility before an order could be initiated and successfully completed. This often results in numerous time-consuming personal contacts between prospective customers and company personnel; inaccurate transmission of information regarding costs, job requirements, etc.; chaotic work scheduling practices; and numerous difficulties in modifying or redirecting previously arranged work job orders. In addition, it is difficult for a customer to know if the price for the printing job was fair since each printing facility had its own distinct pricing structure, making comparison between printing facilities difficult. The present invention provides a systematic approach to alleviate and/or eliminate these difficulties to permit a customer to quickly relate specific printing needs to a printing facility by a computer interface.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Freedman's Job Cost Analysis with Nishikawa's Print Processing Method to obtain the invention as specified in order to quickly assess the customer's specific printing requirements with regard to the capacity or capabilities of numerous printing facilities.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 3-14, and 16-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishikawa et al. (US 6,934,046) in view of Freedman (US 4,839,829).

Regarding Claim 1:

Nishikawa et al. discloses the method for de-spooler job joining (Column 1, lines 9-14), the method comprising:

at a client device (e.g., Host 3000 in Figure 3; Column 5, lines 61-66), despooling (Despooler 305 in Figure 3; Column 8, lines 40-46) a plurality of print jobs;

joining the plurality of print jobs into a single joined print job (See System Spooler 204 in Figures 2 and 3; Note: In Figure 3, the Spooled File 303 is Despooled at 305 and after going through the Print Driver 203 is Spooled again by the System Spooler

204 just prior to going to the Printer 1500; The System Spooler 204 as perceived by the Examiner, 'joins print jobs' after being Despooled at 305.) and,

rendering (Column 9, lines 51-52) the joined print job as a single continuous print job.

Nishikawa does not disclose expressly performing a merger performance analysis to determine that the economy of joining the plurality of print jobs exceeds the job joining overhead; and

Wherein the joined print job is rendered at a single imaging device.

Freedman discloses performing a merger performance analysis to determine that the economy of joining the plurality of print jobs exceeds the job joining overhead; and

wherein the joined print job is rendered at a single imaging device.

(Freedman discloses an automated control system for the printing of a work using a variety of conventional and emerging graphic arts processes and techniques. The system employs a computer network which is programmed so that a printing requester or user can interface, through the computer network, with the printing facility for the printing or publishing of a work or job. More specifically, the system interacts with the user for collecting and storing information or parameters regarding the user's needs (i.e., cost requirements, photos, pictures, graphics, deadlines, number of documents to be printed, colors used, kinds of paper, typeface to be used, etc). The system then compares the information from the user with stored information relating to the printed work design and capabilities of various printing facilities (i.e., types of printing equipment available, for example, offset presses, paper cutters and/or binding equipment, operating costs, time, process requirements, etc.). The system also evaluates which printing facility and/or particular type of printing equipment is most compatible with the user's specific printing needs as disclosed in Column 1, lines 10-31).

Nishikawa & Freedman are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor of image processing; e.g., both references disclose printing control methods.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include a means for performance analysis that takes into account economic considerations prior to assigning a print job.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would be to eliminate many of the impediments incurred in the routine business practices of the printing industry. Freedman discloses that the overall printing process is only as efficient as its weakest link—the client/printing company interface regarding the printing requirements, costs, scheduling, etc. Freedman further discloses enormous amounts of information have to be exchanged between a prospective customer and a printing facility before an order could be initiated and successfully completed. This often results in numerous time-consuming personal contacts between prospective customers and company personnel; inaccurate transmission of information regarding costs, job requirements, etc.; chaotic work scheduling practices; and numerous difficulties in modifying or redirecting previously arranged work job orders. In addition, it is difficult for a customer to know if the price for the printing job was fair since each printing facility had its own distinct pricing structure, making comparison between printing facilities difficult. The present invention provides a systematic approach to alleviate and/or eliminate these difficulties to permit a customer to quickly relate specific printing needs to a printing facility by a computer interface.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Freedman's Job Cost Analysis with Nishikawa's Print Processing Method to obtain the invention as specified in order to

quickly assess the customer's specific printing requirements with regard to the capacity or capabilities of numerous printing facilities.

Regarding Claim 3:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the method of claim 1 wherein joining the plurality of print jobs into a single joined print job includes joining the plurality of print jobs at the client device (Column 8, lines 59-67); and,

the method further comprising:

sending the joined print job to an imaging device (Column 7, lines 32-36).

Regarding Claim 4:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the method of claim 1 wherein joining the plurality of print jobs into a single joined print job includes:

concatenating the plurality of print jobs (Column 3, lines 24-27); and

creating a single spool file with multiple raster image processes (RIPs) (Column 21, lines 48-53).

Regarding Claim 5:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the method of claim 1 wherein joining the plurality of print jobs into a single joined print job includes:

generating a RIP for each print job (Column 8, lines 14-18), with RIP end/start instructions (Column 8, lines 22-24);

removing the RIP end/start instructions (Column 8, lines 18-22);

concatenating the plurality of RIPs (Column 8, lines 59-63); and,

creating a single spool file with a single RIP (Column 8, lines 64-67).

Regarding Claim 6:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the method of claim 5 wherein generating a RIP for each print job, with RIP end/start instructions, includes generating instructions (Column 8, lines 47-53) selected from the group including universal exit language (UEL), printer reset, @PJL header sequence, and @PJL EOJ.

Regarding Claim 7:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the method of claim 1 wherein joining the plurality of print jobs into a single joined print job includes:

converting each print job into an image format file (e.g., PDL; Column 7, lines 29-32); and,

merging the image format files into a single RIP (Column 21, lines 24-27).

Regarding Claim 8:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the method of claim 7 wherein converting each print job into an image format file includes converting each print job into an image format file selected from the group including TIFF, JPEG, Windows bitmap, and PDF format files (Column 8, lines 16-18).

Regarding Claim 9:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising: prior to joining the plurality of print jobs, accepts static control selection commands (e.g., Figure 8); and,

wherein joining the plurality of print jobs into a single joined print job includes joining the jobs in response to the selected static controls (See Figures 27 and 30).

Regarding Claim 10:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the method of claim 9 wherein accepting static control selection commands includes selecting a control from the group including print job format, print job document type, threshold printing instructions, and printing delay instructions (e.g., Figure 22).

Regarding Claim 11:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising: accepting dynamic control selection commands;

analyzing dynamic conditions at run-time (Column 22, lines 21-32); and,

wherein joining the plurality of print jobs into a single joined print job includes joining the jobs in response to the dynamic conditions and the selected dynamic controls (Column 22, lines 33-35).

Regarding Claim 12:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the method of claim 11 wherein accepting dynamic control selection commands includes selecting controls from the group including the number of pending print jobs (e.g., Figure 30 shows example of a screen for editing the composed job), a merger performance analysis, inter-RIP conflicts analysis, and post-merger inter-RIP conflict resolution.

Regarding Claim 13:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the method of claim 1 wherein joining the plurality of print jobs into a single joined print job includes:

converting each print job into a raster format file specific to an imaging device's rendering engine(e.g., PDL; Column 7, lines 29-32); and,

merging the raster format files into a single RIP (Column 21, lines 24-27).

Regarding Claim 14:

Nishikawa et al. discloses a system for de-spooler job joining (Column 1, lines 9-14), the system comprising:

a merger unit (e.g., Host 3000 in Figure 3; Column 5, lines 61-66) having an interface to receive a plurality of despooled print jobs (Despooler 305 in Figure 3; Column 8, lines 40-46), the merger unit joining the plurality of print jobs into a single

joined print job (Column 8, lines 59-67) supplied at an interface (two way interface 121 in Figure 1); and,

an imaging device print controller (PRTC in Figure 1) having an interface (two way interface 121 in Figure 1) to accept the joined print job and an interface to supply a document rendered as a single continuous print job (Column 9, lines 51-52).

Nishikawa does not disclose expressly performing a merger performance analysis to determine that the economy of joining the plurality of print jobs exceeds the job joining overhead; and

Wherein the joined print job is rendered at a single imaging device.

Freedman discloses performing a merger performance analysis to determine that the economy of joining the plurality of print jobs exceeds the job joining overhead; and

wherein the joined print job is rendered at a single imaging device.

(Freedman discloses an automated control system for the printing of a work using a variety of conventional and emerging graphic arts processes and techniques. The system employs a computer network which is programmed so that a printing requester or user can interface, through the computer network, with the printing facility for the printing or publishing of a work or job. More specifically, the system interacts with the user for collecting and storing information or parameters regarding the user's needs (i.e., cost requirements, photos, pictures, graphics, deadlines, number of documents to be printed, colors used, kinds of paper, typeface to be used, etc). The system then compares the information from the user with stored information relating to the printed work design and capabilities of various printing facilities (i.e., types of printing equipment available, for example, offset presses, paper cutters and/or binding equipment, operating costs, time, process requirements, etc.). The system also evaluates which printing facility and/or particular type of printing equipment is most compatible with the user's specific printing needs as disclosed in Column 1, lines 10-31).

Nishikawa & Freedman are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor of image processing; e.g., both references disclose printing control methods.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include a means for performance analysis that takes into account economic considerations prior to assigning a print job.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would be to eliminate many of the impediments incurred in the routine business practices of the printing industry. Freedman discloses that the overall printing process is only as efficient as its weakest link—the client/printing company interface regarding the printing requirements, costs, scheduling, etc. Freedman further discloses enormous amounts of information have to be exchanged between a prospective customer and a printing facility before an order could be initiated and successfully completed. This often results in numerous time-consuming personal contacts between prospective customers and company personnel; inaccurate transmission of information regarding costs, job requirements, etc.; chaotic work scheduling practices; and numerous difficulties in modifying or redirecting previously arranged work job orders. In addition, it is difficult for a customer to know if the price for the printing job was fair since each printing facility had its own distinct pricing structure, making comparison between printing facilities difficult. The present invention provides a systematic approach to alleviate and/or eliminate these difficulties to permit a customer to quickly relate specific printing needs to a printing facility by a computer interface.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Freedman's Job Cost Analysis with Nishikawa's Print Processing Method to obtain the invention as specified in order to quickly assess the customer's specific printing requirements with regard to the capacity or capabilities of numerous printing facilities.

Regarding Claim 16:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the system of claim 14 further comprising:

a client device (e.g., Host 3000 in Figure 1 and 2) including:

a spooler (spooler 302 in Figure 3) with an interface to receive print jobs and an interface (121 in Figure 1) to supply the received print jobs;

a de-spooler (305 in Figure 3) having an interface to receive the print jobs from the spooler and an interface to supply despooled print jobs to the merger unit;

wherein the merger unit (e.g., Spool File Manager 304 in Figure 3) is logically connected with the client device, the merger unit having a network-connected interface (121 in Figure 1) to supply the joined print job to the imaging device print controller; and,

wherein the imaging device print controller (PRTC 108 in Figure 1) has a network-connected interface (121 in Figure 1) to receive the joined print job from the client device merger unit.

Regarding Claim 17:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the system of claim 14 wherein the merger unit joins the plurality of print jobs into a single joined print job by concatenating the plurality

of print jobs Column 3, lines 24-27), and creating a single spool file with multiple raster image processes (RIPs) (Column 21, lines 48-53).

Regarding Claim 18:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the system of claim 14 wherein the merger unit joins the plurality of print jobs into a single joined print job by:

generating a RIP for each print job (Column 8, lines 14-18), with RIP end/start instructions (Column 8, lines 22-24);

removing the RIP end/start instructions (Column 8, lines 18-22);

concatenating the plurality of RIPs (Column 8, lines 59-63); and,

creating a single spool file with a single RIP (Column 8, lines 64-67).

Regarding Claim 19:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the system of claim 18 wherein the merger unit generates RIP end/start instructions (Column 8, lines 47-53) selected from the group including universal exit language (UEL), printer reset, @PJL header sequence, and @PJL EOJ.

Regarding Claim 20:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the system of claim 14 wherein the merger unit joins the plurality of print jobs into a single joined print job by converting each print job into an image format file (e.g., PDL; Column 7, lines 29-32), and merging the image

format files into a single RIP (Column 21, lines 24-27).

Regarding Claim 21:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the system of claim 20 wherein the merger unit converts each print job into an image format file selected from the group including TIFF, JPEG, Windows bitmap, and PDF format files (Column 8, lines 16-18).

Regarding Claim 22:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the system of claim 14 wherein the merger unit has a static condition user interface (UI) for selecting static controls prior to joining the plurality of print jobs (e.g., Figure 8), the merger unit joining the plurality of print jobs into a single joined print job in response to the selected static controls (See Figures 27 and 30).

Regarding Claim 23:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the system of claim 22 wherein the merger unit is responsive to static controls selected from the group including print job format, print job document type, threshold printing instructions, and printing delay instructions (e.g., Figure 22).

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Regarding Claim 24:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the system of claim 14 wherein the merger unit has a dynamic condition UI for selecting dynamic controls, the merger unit analyzing dynamic conditions at run-time (Column 22, lines 21-32) and joining the plurality of print jobs into a single joined print job in response to the dynamic conditions and the selected dynamic controls (Column 22, lines 33-35).

Regarding Claim 25:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the system of claim 24 wherein the merger unit accepts dynamic controls selected from the group including the number of pending print jobs (e.g., Figure 30 shows example of a screen for editing the composed job), a merger performance analysis, inter-RIP conflicts analysis, and post-merger inter-RIP conflict resolution.

Regarding Claim 26:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the system of claim 14 further comprising:

an imaging device rendering engine (e.g., print engine 117 in Figure 1) having an interface (e.g., input unit 118 in Figure 1) to accept the rendered document from the print controller (PRTC 108 in Figure 1) and an interface (two way interface 121 Figure 1) to supply documents in a format selected from the group including paper media, archive documents, and scanned image data.

Regarding Claim 27:

Nishikawa et al. further discloses the system of claim 26 wherein the merger unit joins the plurality of print jobs into a single joined print job by converting each print job into a raster format file which is specific to the imaging device's rendering engine (e.g., PDL; Column 7, lines 29-32), and merging the raster format files into a single RIP (Column 21, lines 24-27).

6. Claims 2 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishikawa and Freedman as applied to claims 1 and 14 above, and further in view of Reilly (US 6,502,147).

Regarding Claim 2:

Nishikawa and Freedman discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising: receiving the plurality of print jobs at an imaging device (Nishikawa; Column 8, lines 54-58);

Nishikawa and Freedman do not expressly disclose wherein the server computer of is located in the printer.

Reilly discloses wherein the print server resides within the printer (Column 1, lines 43-54).

Nishikawa, Freedman and Reilly are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor of image processing; e.g., all references incorporate network printing systems.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have included the host computer 3000 of Figure 3 in the printer of Nishikawa and Freedman.

The suggestion/motivation for combining the printer and print server is to reduce the cost (Column 2, lines 40-45; Reilly).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the network interface of Reilly with the network printing system of Nishikawa and Freedman to obtain the invention as specified in Claim 2.

Regarding Claim 15:

Nishikawa et al. discloses the system of claim 14 wherein the merger unit is logically connected with the imaging device (e.g., Figure 3); and,

the system further comprising:

a spooler (302 in Figure 3) having a network-connected interface (e.g., Figure 2) to receive print jobs and an interface to supply the received print jobs (Column 5, lines 53-60); and,

a despooler (e.g., 305 in Figure 3) having an interface to receive the print jobs from the spooler and an interface to supply (121 in Figure 1) despooled print jobs to the merger unit.

Nishikawa and Freedman do not expressly disclose wherein the server computer of is located in the printer.

Reilly discloses wherein the print server resides within the printer (Column 1, lines 43-54).

Nishikawa, Freedman and Reilly are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor of image processing; e.g., all references incorporate network printing systems.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have included the host computer 3000 of Figure 3 in the printer of Nishikawa and Freedman.

The suggestion/motivation for combining the printer and print server is to reduce the cost (Column 2, lines 40-45; Reilly).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the network interface of Reilly with the network printing system of Nishikawa and Freedman to obtain the invention as specified in Claim 14.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Roberts et al. (US 6,476,930) discloses a method and apparatus for printing and automatically assembling an electronic document.

Examiner Notes

8. The Examiner cites particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that, in preparing responses, the applicant fully considers the references in its entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or as disclosed by the Examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neil R. McLean whose telephone number is (571)270-1679. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30AM-4:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on 571.272.7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Neil R. McLean/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/David K Moore/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625